

NORTH RICHMOND MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Tuesday, October 6, 2020
515 Silver Avenue - North Richmond, CA 94801
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

*Due to COVID-19 the meeting was accessible via Zoom to all members of the public.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. Board members present were: Annie King-Meredith, Beverly Scott, Don Gilmore, and Dr. Henry Clark. Absent were: Lily Rahnema and Karen Garcia.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

The agenda and minutes were reviewed by the board members. Annie motion to accept the agenda. Beverly seconds all are in favor. Henry motion to approve the minutes, Annie seconds, all are in favor. Note: Annie would like to open up the discussion about the NRMAC Logo, which was discussed at last month's NRMAC, meeting. She would like to have the item put on the next month's calendar. Don says we can bring this up at a later point during the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Annie asks are we scheduled for the Willie Spears Clean-up this month? The answer is yes, the Community Clean-up is scheduled for October 24th. Annie asks is this cleanup derived from the Willie Spears Cleanup. Don says when Felisa/Community Service Coordinator gives her report, the cleanup will be explained in more detail.

Tony Ucciferri, Special Assistant to the Executive Director/Housing Authority CCC. The CCC Housing Authority will be opening the PBV waiting list for the Terraces Senior Apartments, 2300 Nevin Avenue, Richmond, CA, on November 2nd at 10 a.m. to November 5th at 4:00 p.m.

Applicants will only be available on-line at www.contracostahousing.org through the RentCafe Application Portal.

Cynthia announces that the Housing Authority CCC/Resident Advisory Board will resume meetings this month via Zoom. The last meeting was held in December.

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PUBLIC COMMENT CONTINUED

Princess Robinson, Project Manager/Corporation Richmond: Princess just wanted to check in with the NRMAC. She has changed jobs, presently working to help residents

open and develop cooperative business in Richmond. She is still involved with the Urban Tilth Garden Project.

Annie King-Meredith announces that he is running for election for the board of the: West County Wastewater District. She says that she is well qualified for the position. If you look at the voting pamphlet, you will see all of her qualifications. She states that she is a member of the board at CHDC. She also has served on boards and has worked in the Bay Area, holding prestigious positions, for numerous years. Annie urges you to vote for her on November 3rd.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY/REPORTS

Lt. Buford/CCC Sheriff's Department: Reporting for the Month of September 2020. There were (88) fewer calls for service. In August there were (361) compared to (273) in September. Eight warrants were served, and eight vehicles were towed. There were no assaults with deadly weapons. It appears that former residents of the Las Deltas Housing have relocated to Rodeo. A need for law-enforcement services has increased in that community.

There is an abandoned boat located at Alamo and Battery Streets. It has been abandoned for a long period of time. The boat has been tagged and should be towed away soon. Law Enforcement Officers and Mitigation Officers will be focusing on towing and the tagging of vehicles that are in violation.

There was a strong presence of law enforcement agencies at 4th and Silver. The police action evolved out of El Cerrito. Possible suspects were located in North Richmond.

Marena Brown/President Shield's Neighborhood Council is sitting in on this meeting. Due to CORONA-19, they are not holding meetings.

Officer Kaiser/RPD: Reporting for September 2020: Illegal activities have picked up in Central and other areas in Richmond. (Nothing affecting North Richmond). There have been seven homicides, and multiple shootings, carjackings, and stolen vehicles.

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LAW ENFORCEMENT/AGENCY REPORTS CONTINUED

Dr. Clark says that you have to be aware of the statistics until some finalization has been made on the outcome of the crimes. North Richmond residents may be involved in these crimes. A task force has been pulled together, they are seizing illegal weapons, that's going well.

Marena expressed concerns about the crowds gathering at the park daily. Cynthia expresses the same concerns. Large crowds gather and socialize, during this COROVID-19 Pandemic. They hang around and drink alcohol, smoke blunts,

etc. Organized birthday parties, serving of food. The COVID guidelines should be enforced. N. R. has a history of high outbreaks of infectious diseases, such as AIDS, Tuberculosis, etc.

The last thing we need is for the NR community to become a hotbed for COVID-19.

OTHER AGENCY/PROGRAM REPORTS

Carlos Lemus, Project Manager, Resident Leadership-Healthy Richmond:

Reporting on Healthy Richmond activities. Continuing to focus on gathering Census information. The deadline for the Census is October 31st. North Richmond, San Pablo, Central Richmond, has a low response rate. Doing tabling events, and phone calls also.

Healthy Richmond is working to keep COVID-19 down amongst the Latino population. Did not get a chance to get the surveys out for Youth Services. Will continue to work with RYSE to help formulate the surveys. Continuing to meet with Housing Authority, discussing the use and sale of Las Deltas property and the scattered sites. Participating in the workshops, that's underway for the Shields and Reid park renovation. Involved with Richmond Housing Services, hosting workshops 203K-FHA. Opportunities to be qualified, to buy property in need of repair.

Marena asks is Healthy Richmond linked up with CHDC. The answer is no, they are linked up with Richmond Housing Services, a service that does work like CHDC.

Questions were asked about CHDC services. Don says during the pandemic, CHDC has all its full services. Henry asks does CHDC pertain to NR only? Don says they work throughout surrounding cities in the Bay Area.

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OTHER AGENCY/PROGRAM REPORTS CONTINUED

Robert Rogers, District Coordinator/Supervisor John Gioia's Office: Robert announces Clean Air Day tomorrow. The majority of events will take place viral, and through millions of small actions. Men and Women of Valor will sponsor a Clean Air Day. Free produce, plants, plant seeds, and food will be given away. The planting of a few trees at the site will take place. A resolution will be presented.

Doug Harris' North Richmond Exhibit will be hosted via Zoom. At 7:00 p.m. Due to a time conflict of the Presidential Debate, Robert will record the entire program.

The mural at the Verde School is coming along great. Fantastic work is being done.

Don Gilmore, Director/CHDC: Don says that CHDC will take part in Clean Air Day. They will be featuring the Electric Hybrid Vehicle Program. A chance for locals to purchase clean air vehicles.

Some funds for the proposed grocery store, to be located at Heritage Point, have been acquired. Plans are still underway for the planned Resource Center, to be located at Heritage Point. Some funds have been received for improvement. Legacy Court is still in the process of acquiring funding.

Tony Ucciferri, Special Assistant to the Executive Director/Housing Authority CCC:
Working with attorneys to figure what the next step is, pertaining to the twelve acres at the Las Deltas site. In the final stages of working out details of the scattered sites. There are (42) buildings, consisting of (38) duplexes and four single-family buildings. The scattered sites are in such dismay, they would have to be rehabbed. Hoping to make them affordable for people to buy, below fair market, or at market value.

Henry asks do you have a projected time for the redevelopment of the Las Deltas site. Tony says at best, someone with finances lined up, ready to turn a shovel.

Felisa Orozco, Community Service Coordinator/ CHDC, Mitigation Fee Funded:
Have been distributing flyers for the upcoming (October 24th) Community Cleanup. Annie asks about the cleanup. What happened to the official name of the cleanup. Willie Spears Cleanup. The name should continue to be acknowledged as in the past. Why wasn't the name put on the flyers, who approved for the flyers to go out into the community without the original name (Willie Spears Cleanup Day).

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OTHER AGENCY/PROGRAM REPORTS CONTINUED

Marena says that it would be nice to clean North Richmond up, Cynthia agrees. She goes on to say that NR is in a state of dismay. North Richmond looks so ragged and rundown, regardless of all the recently added houses, and business. It is just awful.

Community Service will participate in the upcoming First Patrolled Street Sweep. A variety of agencies will come together and convene upon the streets of NR. They will be addressing the trash and homelessness problems of North Richmond.

Laticia Chavez, N.R. Resident: Have observed people dumping trash on Pittsburgh Ave.

Annie asks is REACH International Fellowship aware of the Zoom link for this meeting. Robert says yes, they are on our email list.

PRESENTATIONS

Stephine Ny, Program Manager/Richmond Love Your Block,
Jene Levine-Snipes, Development Project Manager/City of Richmond
Sarah Granquist, Community Service /City of Richmond

Redesigning Shields and Reid Park:

Under Prop 68, State of California Parks & Water Bond. Funding may be available in the millions, to redesign the park.

Saturday, September 26, 2020, the City of Richmond hosted a sidewalk design meeting to gather input from North Richmond residents and community members about redesigning Shields-Reid Park. Three park layouts have been designed based on the feedback from residents at the sidewalk design meeting.

Tonight would like to choose a layout option and hear about suggestions, safety concerns for the park that can help address the redesigning of the park.

The final sidewalk meeting will be at Shields-Reid Park on Thursday, October 22 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

Suggestions: Walking path, picnic area, children play area, skate park, chess & checkers tables, art, (a gateway to the park) stage & performance area, shade trees, bike track, fitness and exercise equipment at the park, community garden, and (small habitat garden) permanent outside restrooms, no porta-potties.

Concerns: Cleanliness and maintenance, get rid of gambling and drinking of alcoholic beverages at the park. Adequate lighting at night, working electrical outlets outside. Working water fountains.

Anne Bremer, Education and Community Programs Manager/The Watershed Project:
Anne's goals are to connect people with the natural environment through education and action. Currently, in the NR area, Integrated Regional Water Management (DAC) Planning Process. Funding for water-related improvements in disadvantaged communities.

Community Priorities - Area of Need Identifies:
clean drinking water, water conservation, urban greening/green infrastructure, solutions to sea-level rise, and flooding and water conservation.

The stakeholders for these projects are the East Bay Regional Park District, East Bay Municipal Utility District, City of Richmond, CCC Flood Control, etc.

Some of the top projects for the NR area:
NR pump station upgrades: Tap water testing & outreach & education.
Flood risk reduction in the Rheem Creek - Wildcat Creek Trail improvements
Environmental Education with field trips - Habitable restoration opportunities and benefits to wildlife. Education for children to Watershed.

Next step: Report back to stakeholders, identify funding, seeking a grant from the Department of Water Resources for the fish ladder, at the creeks. Working on the CA Fish Passage Act Grant.

Henry asks about Verde School students being educated about natural habitats at the creeks, located adjacent to the school. This program was proposed for the school, not sure if it was ever implemented.

****Motion to extend the meeting to 7:15 p.m. Beverly motions, Annie seconds, all favor.**

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PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

John Steere, Watershed Planner/ Potential Proposal for the North Richmond Green Streets corridor:

The N. Richmond Green Streets Corridor Proposal Concept consists of three segments:

Segment-1 Parr Boulevard: from Fred Jackson Way to Bay Trail/West County Transfer Facility.

Segment-2 Fred Jackson Way (FJW): from Chesley to Parr Boulevard), which is mostly part of the North Richmond Watershed Connections Project.

Segment-3 Market Ave: from Rumrill Boulevard "Green Street" to Fred Jackson Way (to be determined if it will be part of the proposal.

Proposed Project Funding Concept: Design/build funding for all of Segment 3 or between the Richmond Parkway and FJW; and the portion of Segment 2 between the FJW Rain Garden and Parr Boulevard. Segment 1 would not be able to be "ready to proceed: Project construction should be completed - November 2023

The benefits of the project are to serve North Richmond, a significant DAC. The project is in County SW Resources Plan and GI Plan; Water Quality treatment for Pollutants. Connect to North Richmond Watershed Connections, a funded project. Will involve the watershed Project, Urban Tilth, and North Richmond community members. Community benefits include access to Bay Trail, connections to parks, Rumrill Green Street, Wildcat Creek Trail. Provides a greenway-like experience parallel to Wildcat and San Pablo Creeks. The corridor is part of the countywide Bike/Ped Plan.

What can a GBD do for North Richmond? DCD and Supervisor John Gioia are seeking a feasibility study for the development of GBDs for DACs, like North Richmond. Funds may be applied to the following: Capital improvements, operations, and maintenance, Other enhancements (such as fiscal accounting).

Examples: include urban greening and street trees, enhance trash/litter removal, graffiti abatement, finance management, and contract services.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - NOVEMBER 3, 2020 - 5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. - 515 Silver Street, N. Richmond, CA